

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15
STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 STRE-00 DOEE-00 /124 W
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P 071046Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6904
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY

GENEVA FOR TOM SAYLOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
SUBJECT: STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOW-UP: BEEF

REF: STATE 84531

1. SUMMARY: MAF ANIMAL INDUSTRY BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL
SUGIYAMA CONFIRMED APRIL 7 THAT GOJ PLANS SEND RETURN BEEF
MISSION LED BY FORMER AGATT SANO TO WASHINGTON LATTER HALF
APRIL. HE GAVE NO HINTS WHAT THEY PLAN TO OFFER FOR
IMPLEMENTATION BUT PROMISED BRIEF AGATT AS PREPARATIONS FOR
VISIT PROCEED. BARREDA, STR, STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF
IMPLEMENTATION BEEF COMMITMENT, NOTING PROGRESS HAD ALREADY
BEEN MADE ON MOST OTHER TRADE ITEMS IN COMMUNIQUE. SUGIYAMA
SAID FIRST HALF OF JFY 1978 BEEF QUOTA WILL BE ANNOUNCED
EARLY MAY AFTER TEAM RETURNS. SCHROETER, FAS, URGED MAF
CONSIDER RESERVING PART OF GENERAL QUOTA FOR HIGH QUALITY
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BEEF AND USING ONE TOUCH SYSTEM TO FACILITATE IMPORTS.

2. ASST. AGATT, SCHROETER, FAS, AND BARREDA, STR, CALLED ON
DIRECTOR GENERAL ANIMAL INDUSTRY BUREAU K. SUGIYAMA APRIL 7
TO CHECK ON STATUS GOJ PLANS FOR BEEF MISSION TO U.S. AFTER
REHASH OF MAF/LIPC BEEF PRICE STABILIZATION SYSTEM, SUGIYAMA
SAID TEAM LED BY SENIOR COUNSELLOR SANO (FORMER AGATT IN

WASHINGTON) AND INCLUDING ONE EXECUTIVE AND WORKING LEVEL PERSON FROM LIPC AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES WILL COME TO U.S. IN LATTER HALF OF APRIL.

3. SUGIYAMA COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC ON BEEF TEAM PREPARATIONS YET BUT PROMISED TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH AGATT'S OFFICE AS THESE PROCEED SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO SURPRISES ON EITHER SIDE WHEN GOJ TEAM ARRIVES WASHINGTON. SUGIYAMA NOTED THAT MAF'S DECISION NOT TO RAISE BEEF PRICES HAD DRAWN FIRE FROM "RULING PARTY" DIETMAN AND THIS HAS MADE WORK ON THE STRAUSS/USHIBA BEEF COMMITMENT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. HE SAID THAT RESULT OF U.S. BEEF TEAM'S MISSION IN MARCH WAS RESOLUTION OF DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF COMMUNIQUE BUT THAT, SINCE WE HAD ONLY GOTTEN THAT FAR, SANO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO SPEND MOST OF HIS TIME IN U.S. IN WASHINGTON WITH U.S. OFFICIALS EVEN WHILE OTHER BEEF MISSION MEMBERS MIGHT BE TRAVELLING.

4. BARREDA EXPLAINED HIS NEW POSITION AT STR FOR COORDINATION OF STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOW-UP AND US/GOJ MTN MATTERS AND NOTED THAT CREATION THIS POSITION BY STRAUSS ANOTHER INDICATION OF SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH U.S. VIEWS IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNIQUE. HE NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF MOST SPECIFIC TRADE ITEMS EXCEPT FOR BEEF. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING BEEF ISSUE BEFORE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON WHEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USHIBA WILL PROBABLY MEET WITH STRAUSS. HE ADDED THAT AFTER TWO MEETINGS IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN FURTHER DELAYS TO CATTLEMEN.

5. SCHROETER RAISED QUESTIONS REFTEL AS EXAMPLES AREAS U.S. EXPECTS JAPANESE TEAM TO ADDRESS AND URGED CONSIDERATION OF "ONE TOUCH" SYSTEM BY LIPC TO FACILITATE IMPORTS OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF. SUGIYAMA SAID GENERAL QUOTA FOR FIRST HALF JFY 1978 WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY MAY AFTER BEEF MISSION RETURNS. HOW QUOTA HANDLED IN SECOND HALF WILL DEPEND ON DEVELOPMENTS. U.S. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF SPECIFICATIONS UNDER INTENSE STUDY. IN ASIDE WE WERE TOLD BY MAF OFFICIALS THAT ONLY PROBLEM WITH SPECIFICATIONS WAS "OCEANIA." SCHROETER ASKED IF ALL OR PART OF 5,000 TON INCREASE IN FIRST HALF COULD BE RESERVED FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF, AND NOTED THAT AUSTRALIAN VICE PREMIER ANTHONY HAS JUST RETURNED TO CANBERRA SATISFIED WITH JAPANESE BEEF SITUATION FOR THE MOMENT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT GENERAL QUOTA WOULD BE INCREASED 5,000 TONS "EACH TERM" (READ: EACH SIX MONTHS). SUGIYAMA DID NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY. COMMENT DURING U.S. BEEF MISSION VISIT, WE WERE TOLD HIGH QUALITY BEEF COULD BE SPECIFIED BY LIPC IN ITS TENDERS IN

COURSE OF NORMAL OPERATIONS BUT THAT WHOLE AMOUNT OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF FOR A QUOTA PERIOD COULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED AT OUTSET OF QUOTA PERIOD, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO ESTABLISHING SPECIAL QUOTA FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF.

6. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, U.S. REPS AGAIN STRESSED NEED TO WRAP UP AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BEEF COMMITMENT DURING WASHINGTON MEETING AND REQUESTED MAF OFFICIALS GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO RESERVING PART OF GENERAL QUOTA FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF AND EXPANDING USE OF ONE TOUCH SYSTEM. MANSFIELD

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